



Colorado Legislative Council Staff Fiscal Note
**STATE and LOCAL
 FISCAL IMPACT**

Drafting Number: LLS 07-0496
Prime Sponsor(s): Sen. Spence

Date: February 6, 2007
Bill Status: Senate Education
Fiscal Analyst: David Porter (303-866-4375)

TITLE: CONCERNING THE CREATION OF A TEACHER IDENTIFIER SYSTEM, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, CREATING THE EFFECTIVE TEACHERS COMMISSION.

Fiscal Impact Summary	FY 2007-2008	FY 2008-2009
State Revenue Gifts, Grants, and Donations to the Effective Teachers Fund	None Identified	None Identified
State Expenditures General Fund	\$ 6,240	up to \$ 325,860*
FTE Position Change	0.0 FTE	0.0 FTE
Effective Date: Upon signature of the Governor.		
Appropriation Summary for FY 2007-2008: See State Appropriations section.		
School District Impact: Additional data gathering responsibilities may drive workload.		

**See the State Expenditures section for a discussion of this conditional cost.*

Summary of Legislation

This bill establishes the 13-member Effective Teacher Commission and specifies its composition. The commission is established to investigate the “teacher gap,” which is the condition of poor and minority students receiving instruction from less-qualified teachers. The commission is to determine the following about the teacher gap:

- why it exists, why it is widening, and how it directly affects student achievement;
- what policies exist that are effective in reducing the teacher gap; and
- how to implement a teacher identification protocol integrating teachers into existing and emerging databases.

The commission will meet for a two-year period beginning on or before August 1, 2007. In the first year, the commission will examine the teacher gap, create a teacher identification protocol, and recommend the protocol to the Department of Education for a pilot implementation. In the second year, the pilot program will be underway and the commission will continue study of

the teacher gap, monitor the pilot program, and formulate a statewide teacher identification system for implementation. Each year the commission is to report findings to the House and Senate Education Committees. In the second year, the commission is to provide policy suggestions to the General Assembly.

The bill creates the Effective Teachers Fund and allows the commission to accept gifts, grants, and donations. The commission sunsets on July 1, 2009.

State Revenue

SB07-140 allows the commission to accept gifts, grants, and donations to the Effective Teachers Fund. None have been identified at this time.

State Expenditures

Total state expenditures are estimated at **\$6,240** in FY 2007-08 and up to **\$325,860** in FY 2008-09.

Actual Costs. In FY 2007-08 and FY 2008-09, commission expenses are required. Estimating that the 13-member commission will meet eight times a year with expenses averaging \$60 per person per meeting results in commission costs of **\$6,240** each year. Note that the bill requires a meeting occur before August 1, 2007. While it is possible that a meeting would occur in FY 2006-07 (prior to July 1, 2007), no such meetings are anticipated and all costs begin in FY 2007-08.

Conditional Costs. In FY 2007-08, the Department of Education will oversee the teacher identification pilot program. The cost of the pilot program is entirely dependent on the specifications and policies developed by the commission.

For the pilot program, the department estimates that if current systems are used with relatively little modification, the impact could be minimal.

A more thorough proposal would involve several phases, including: defining requirements, assigning teacher identifiers, and creating and linking databases. Total preparation and programming time to develop the pilot system is estimated at 1950 hours, for a cost of **\$300,420**. In addition, the program would need a project manager (300 hours at **\$19,200**) to work with participating districts. With this scenario, the total pilot cost would be **\$319,620**.

Costs of the pilot program can be covered by gifts, grants, and donations to the Effective Teachers Fund. However, without any revenue identified, this fiscal note assumes a General Fund obligation. It is expected that the actual cost of the program will be addressed in the annual budget process once the commission has finalized program specifications.

Funding. The bill creates an Effective Teacher Fund and allows the commission to spend 1 percent of the fund on meeting expenses. With expenses of \$6,240, paying for all meeting costs with the fund would require a balance of \$6,240,000. This fiscal note assumes a direct appropriation to the department. Any gifts, grants, and donations could be used by the commission for other activities.

School District Impact

The commission is to gather school district data concerning the policies and practices effective in reducing the teacher gap. The resources necessary to comply with this requirement are dependent on the scope of the data requested. No estimates of the data requirements have been made. Additionally, select school districts would be involved in the pilot teacher identification program. The responsibilities of these districts are dependent on the decisions of commission.

State Appropriations

This fiscal note implies a \$6,240 General Fund appropriation to the Department of Education in FY 2007-08.

Departments Contacted

Education	Treasury
Governor	Higher Education